AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of zooming in/out a current display of a visualization of a network ~~resources~~ comprising a plurality of interconnected nodes, each said ~~resource~~ network node having zero or more attributes related to an operational characteristic or status of said network node, and each ~~resource~~ network node being a ~~resource~~ network node of interest if it has at least one attribute that matches predetermined criteria, the network nodes represented in the visualization by interconnected icons, comprising:

computing a future display area zoomed in/out from said current display by an initial factor;

positioning said future display area over said visualization to include the largest possible number of icons representing ~~resources~~ network nodes of interest; and

replacing said current display with a view of said future display area.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising, following positioning said future display area, further zooming in/out said future display area until icons representing ~~resources~~ network nodes of interest are proximate at least two edges of said future display area.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said initial factor is in the range from 115% to 130% for a zoom in, and in the range from 70% to 85% for a zoom out.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 wherein said initial factor is 120% for a zoom in, and 80% for a zoom out.

5-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said <u>icons representing</u> ~~resources~~ <u>network nodes</u> of interest are visually distinguished in said current display.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein said <u>icons representing</u> ~~resources~~ <u>network nodes</u> of interest are visually distinguished by displaying indicia of interest associated with said resources.

9-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said ~~resources~~ <u>network nodes</u> of interest have different degrees of priority, wherein at least one said ~~resource~~ <u>network node</u> of interest has a higher priority than at least one other ~~resource~~ <u>network node</u> of interest.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein positioning said future display area to include the largest possible number of <u>icons representing</u> ~~resources~~ <u>network nodes</u> of interest comprises positioning said future display area to include the largest possible number of <u>icons representing</u> ~~resources~~ <u>network nodes</u> having said higher priority.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein, if said future display area cannot include more than one <u>icon representing</u> ~~resource~~ <u>a network node</u> of interest, positioning said future display area to include the largest possible number of <u>icons representing</u> ~~resources~~ <u>network nodes</u> of interest comprises positioning said future display area such that a single <u>icon representing</u> ~~resource~~ <u>a network node</u> of interest is centered in said future display area.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of zooming in a current display of a network ~~resources~~ comprising a plurality of interconnected nodes, each said ~~resource~~ network node having zero or more attributes related to an operational characteristic or status of said network node, and each ~~resource~~ network node being a ~~resource~~ network node of interest if it has at least one attribute that matches predetermined criteria, the network nodes represented in the visualization by interconnected icons, comprising:

computing a future display area zoomed in from said current display by an initial factor;

positioning said future display area over said visualization to encompass the largest possible number of icons representing ~~resources~~ network nodes of interest;

if the largest possible number of icons representing ~~resources~~ network nodes of interest that said future display area can encompass is one, positioning said future display area such that said one icon representing ~~resource~~ a network node of interest is centered in said future display area; and

replacing said current display with a view of said future display area.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 further comprising, prior to replacing said current display:

if said largest possible number of icons representing ~~resources~~ network nodes of interest that said future display area can encompass is at least two, further zooming and positioning said future display area such that a ~~resource~~ an icon representing a network node of interest is proximate at least two edges of said future display area.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising:

a display device;

memory; and

a processor operatively connected to said display device and said memory, for executing

code operative to produce a current display on said display device depicting a

visualization of a network ~~resources~~ comprising a plurality of interconnected

nodes, each said ~~resource~~ network node having zero or more attributes related

to an operational characteristic or status of said network node, and each said

~~resource~~ network node being a ~~resource~~ network node of interest if it has at least

one attribute that matches predetermined criteria, the network nodes represented

in the visualization by interconnected icons, said processor operative to perform

the steps of:

computing a future display area zoomed in/out from said current display by an

initial factor;

positioning said future display area over said visualization to include the largest

possible number of icons representing ~~resources~~ network nodes of

interest; and

replacing said current display with a view of said future display area.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 16 wherein said processor further

performs the step of, prior to replacing said current display, further zooming and positioning said

future display area such that ~~a resource~~ an icon representing a network node of interest is

proximate at least two edges of said future display area.

18. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium that stores computer-executable

process steps for zooming in/out a current display of a network ~~resources~~ comprising a plurality

of interconnected nodes, each said ~~resource~~ network node having zero or more attributes

related to an operational characteristic or status of said network node, and each said ~~resource~~

network node being a ~~resource~~ network node of interest if it has at least one attribute that

matches predetermined criteria, the network nodes represented in the visualization by

interconnected icons, said computer-executable process steps causing a computer to perform

the steps of:

computing a future display area zoomed in/out from said current display by an

initial factor;

positioning said future display area over said visualization to include the largest

possible number of icons representing ~~resources~~ network nodes of

interest; and

replacing said current display with a view of said future display area.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 18, said computer-

executable process steps further causing a computer to perform the step of, prior to replacing

said current display, further zooming and positioning said future display area such that ~~a~~

~~resource~~ an icon representing a network node of interest is proximate at least two edges of said

future display area.

20. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said operational characteristic includes one or more of

the network node's type, function, capacity, speed, throughput, or number of downstream

resources.

21. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said current operational status comprises active,

inactive, normal, critical, or failed.

22. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein all network nodes are physical.

23. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein one or more network nodes are simulated.